Book Reviews

Clinical Pharmacology of Local Anesthetics
John E. Tetzlaff. Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000.
258 pages. \$50.00 (US). ISBN 0-7506-9797-0

Textbooks on local anesthetics have always interested me and I was delighted when asked to review this new book by Tetzlaff. The author's goal for this book was to spread the word about local anesthetics to those who use local anesthetics in clinical practice including anesthesiologists, surgeons and dentists.

The book is divided into five sections including one in physiology, Esters Amides, additives and compounds and surgical applications. The book is well written, easy to read and has few illustrations. The chapters are short yet comprehensive and well referenced. Chemical formulae are inevitable in a text like this and I was amused that the author did these in long hand which is very practical. Ropivacaine represents a new era in local anesthesia and is the single enantiomer. The author perhaps could have emphasized this advance and the whole issue of isomerism in the chapter on organic chemistry.

It is easy to pick out inaccuracies and misspellings in any text, however there are very few in this text. Let me cite a couple of examples: procaine is not an intermediate acting local anesthetic (chapter 3), it is short acting. Ropivacaine and cocaine are not the only local anesthetics to reduce blood flow to neural structures. Bupivacaine also reduces blood flow to the spinal cord in animals (Kozody). I learned something new from this book too, e.g. the uptake of local anesthetics is influenced by circadian rhythms and ethanol enhances the potency of local anesthetics. 2-CP is now available in some countries without EDTA and can be used for IVRA.

Interesting to hear that tetracaine is still the most commonly used local anesthesia in the United States. Bupivacaine is the most commonly used local anesthetic for spinal anesthesia in Canada.

This is a very clinically oriented book and I anticipate that it might be very useful for those individuals preparing for examinations. In the final analysis this author did achieve his goal which was to produce a comprehensive practical text book on local anesthetics for those clinicians who use local anesthetics frequently. It is a worthy complement to two other excellent texts on this topic, one by Rudolph de Jong entitled *Local Anesthetics* and the other by Covino and

Vassalo entitled *Local Anesthetic Mechanisms of Action and Use*.

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Psychological Mechanisms of Pain and Analgesia.
Progress in Pain Research and Management, Vol 15.
Donald D. Price. IASP Press, 1999. 248 pages.
\$69.00 (US) Member Price \$50.00 (US). ISBN 0-931092-29-9

"Pain fills the space of our conscious experience, demands our attention, and diverts attentional and motivational resources away from other agenda" (p. 207). It is rare the individual who cannot relate to this overwhelming feeling of intrusion so inherent in pain, yet pain is a highly subjective and multifaceted phenomenon, consisting of sensory, cognitive-evaluative, and affective-motivational dimensions. In order to understand this complex human experience, Dr. Price presents an interdisciplinary approach that integrates discoveries in the fields of psychophysics, neurophysiology, and psychology. In his nine-chapter text, Dr. Price successfully synthesizes and interprets current scientific discoveries and theories of pain into a comprehensive presentation of the pain experience. The writing is sophisticated and assumes a certain understanding of pain concepts, but even untrained readers will gain some understanding of the intricate pain process. Critical analysis of the current state of research is followed by suggestions for future research and possible ways of translating present findings into practical pain management strategies. Of particular interest is the current thinking with respect to placebo and hypnotic analgesia and the impact on pain assessment and treatment. Dr. Price encourages his readers to view pain as a model by which to study the interrelationships between sensation, perception, meaning, emotion and behaviour; thereby gaining a greater understanding of human consciousness in general.

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